

NATIONAL HONEY REPORT



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service
Fruit and Vegetable Programs
Market News Division

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UPDATED REPORT: SEE PRICES BELOW

HONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2015

IN VOLUMES OF 10,000 POUNDS OR GREATER UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

Prices paid to beekeepers for extracted, unprocessed honey in major producing states by packers, handlers & other large users, cents per pound, f.o.b. or delivered nearby, containers exchanged or returned, prompt delivery & payment unless otherwise stated.

- REPORT INCLUDES BOTH NEW AND OLD CROP HONEY -

(# Some in Small Lot --- +Some delayed payments or previous commitment)

DAKOTA

Western	White	\$2.06
Western	Extra Light Amber	\$2.06
Western	Light Amber	\$2.06

FLORIDA

Brazilian Pepper	Light Amber	\$1.84
Clover	White	\$2.07
Gallberry	Extra Light Amber	\$2.15
Orange Blossom	Extra Light Amber	\$2.10 - \$2.20
Orange Blossom	Light Amber	\$2.20
Wildflower	Extra Light Amber	\$1.90 - \$2.05

TEXAS

Western	White	\$2.06
Western	Extra Light Amber	\$2.06

WYOMING

Alfalfa	Light Amber	\$2.06
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WISCONSIN

Clover	White	\$2.35
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Prices paid to Canadian Beekeepers for unprocessed, bulk honey by packers and importers in U. S. currency, f.o.b. shipping point, containers included unless otherwise stated. Duty and crossing charges extra. Cents per pound.

Clover	White	\$1.95
Mixed Flowers	White	\$1.98

Prices paid to importers for bulk honey, duty paid, containers included, cents per pound, ex-dock or point of entry unless otherwise stated.

ARGENTINA

Mixed Flowers	White	\$1.86	-	\$2.13
Mixed Flowers	Extra Light	\$1.86	-	\$2.13

BRAZIL

Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.65		
ORGANIC	Light Amber	\$1.94	-	\$1.96

DOM REPUBLIC

Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.52		
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INDIA

Mixed Flowers	White	\$1.72		
Mixed Flowers	Extra Light	\$1.49	-	\$1.72
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.35	-	\$1.67
Mixed Flowers	Amber	\$1.48		

MAYANMAR

Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.46		
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MEXICO

Orange Blossom	White	\$2.15		
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TAIWAN

Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.45		
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VIETNAM

Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.47	-	\$1.52
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UKRAINE

Mixed Flowers	Extra Light	\$1.69	-	\$1.71
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.69	-	\$1.70

URUGUAY

Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.72		
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VIETNAMESE

Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.49	-	\$1.50
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COLONY, HONEY PLANT AND MARKET CONDITIONS DURING APRIL, 2015

APPALACHIAN DISTRICT (MD, PA, VA, WV): The warmer weather finally came, but also saw the arrival of April showers. The first part of the month was wet and the planting of many field crops were delayed due to wet fields. Bloom on orchards was also delayed; however, by mid-month, the temperature rose and orchards popped in response. Daytime temperatures climbed into the seventies and lows in the forties and fifties. On April 23 a cold front passed through dropping nighttime temperatures to the freezing mark for 2 days. Growers reported on minor damage to orchards that were in various stage of bloom at the time. Beekeepers are recovering from heavy winter losses due mostly to starvation and many have purchased replacement bees. Colonies are fully active and their numbers are increasing. Orchards and other spring flowering trees and plants were in full bloom during the month. Pollen levels were fairly low at the beginning of April during the wetter weather, but increased from mid-month during the sunny, ideal weather.

ALABAMA: April weather in Alabama has been rainy and cool at times delaying some honeybee activities by a week or so, especially in north Alabama. Colony build up, swarming and nectar gathering have all been disrupted according to some beekeepers. However, the last 10 days or so the weather has gotten somewhat consistent and an explosion of swarming has taken place in south Alabama. Many beekeepers are reporting above normal swarming going on, leaving many colonies in transition or completely queenless. The buildup of pests has been affected by the weather also with reports of problems being minimal. SHB is starting to show up in some southern bee yards. April is always a great month for foraging in Alabama, and now with moderating temps. Bees are in full nectar gathering mode. Privet and wildflowers are in full bloom and the bees are going crazy on them.

ARIZONA: Across Arizona during April, temperatures were at above normal levels during the first week of the month, were at normal levels the second week, and were at below normal levels for the remainder of the month. The range of temperatures for the month were from a high of 101 degrees Fahrenheit in Mohave and Yuma to a low of 9 degrees Fahrenheit at Grand Canyon. During the four weeks in April, 2, 13 and 42 of the 50 reporting stations received precipitation, respectively. For 2015 thus far, 19 of the 50 reporting stations are at above normal precipitation levels for the year.

Generally speaking, Arizona bee colonies have returned to the state after spending the past few months out of state for the purposes of pollinating fruit and nut trees elsewhere, mainly in California. Desert and plant bloom were the main sources for nectar and pollen in the state, with alfalfa also serving as a source. Melons are anticipated to become more available for pollination during the upcoming months. Demand for honey remains good

ARKANSAS: No report issued.

CALIFORNIA: Temperatures remained fairly consistent day to day throughout the week except for one day in particular, which was cooler as an upper-level low moved over the State. Highs in the valley were typically in the 70s-80s, with 60s-70s along the coast, 80s-90s in the desert, and 40s-50s in the mountains. Lows were in the 40s across the valley, with 50s along the coast, 50s-60s in the desert, and 20s-30s in the mountains. On that particular day, temperatures were some 10 degrees cooler than those on the other days of the week, with patchy frost across the central valley. The approach of the upper-level low brought appreciable rains to much of the State except for the northern mountains. Rainfall amounts were heaviest over the central valley, where two-day rainfall totals exceeded one inch in many locations. Between a third and two thirds of an inch fell across most locations from Salinas southward, except across the deserts. Elsewhere, most locations remained either completely dry, or saw very light precipitation on one or more days during the week, but amounts were typically less than a tenth of an inch. In the central Sierras, nighttime temperatures dropped low enough to cause rain to transition to snow at higher elevations. These snow showers lasted only overnight and resulted in little to no accumulation over warm/wet ground. Any snow that did manage to accumulate melted during the following day. In addition, springtime temperatures resulted in further melting of the mountain snowpack.

The severe drought continues to be a factor for blooming plants. In the Central Valley, sunflowers prepared to bloom along the Central Coast. Avocado bloom was ongoing. Olive trees were in full bloom; bloom came earlier than normal this year. Pomegranate trees continued to bloom. Grape bloom was ongoing. Where available, bees were feeding on wild mustard, wild radish, rosemary, borage, California poppies, dandelions, apple trees, lavender, and berries. The bees have been barely maintaining themselves and some supplemental feeding is occurring just to keep the bees going until the alfalfa seed starts.

In Southern California, there is a light flow from buckwheat right now in the inland areas, and the bees are making a little honey. There were a number of wildflowers in bloom during the earlier portion of the month, such as sage and mustard. The hot and dry weather during the middle of the month, however, accelerated the decline of most of the wildflowers. As of now, there is not much of anything in bloom. There is a little eucalyptus still blooming, along with some remaining mustard and wild alfalfa. Willows, along with the desert trees - palo verde and mesquite - in some of the drier areas are also in bloom, providing pollen and some nectar. Overall, however, the flowers are mainly dry, not producing much in the way of nectar. Nearly all Southern California beekeepers have been feeding syrup steadily through May. Without this feed the bees go downhill fast. There is not presently enough bloom for full strength colonies to sustain themselves very well.

FLORIDA: South Florida probably had above average precipitation while Central Florida was closer to normal for the month. Temperatures were about average for the month with a few days of warmer than normal temperatures. Bee health was considered to be good with no supplemental feeding needed. Orange blossom honey production ended before the end of the month with many beekeepers estimating the production at 50%-75% of normal. Prices were very good for the orange blossom honey with some producers reporting sales above \$3.00 per pound. Tupelo honey production began around the middle of the month with most producers expecting a normal yield. Gallberry bloom began in many areas about 10 days before the end of the month. Palmetto bloom began around the end of the first week of April and was slowly advancing from South Florida to the North. Many bees were being shipped to northern states such as Maine, Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania for pollination duties in such crops as cherries, pears and blueberries. Demand for bees, hives, honey, other equipment related to honey production, and even information on beekeeping appears to be at the highest level since shortly after World War II. New beekeepers are being registered at the rate of almost 100 per month. Honey supplies continue to be very light while demand is very good. Prices appear to be in a favorable position to move higher.

GEORGIA: The month of April had varying degrees of success and losses throughout the state. Most of the spring crop has been affected by the heavy rains washing off the pollen and nectar. A light supply is expected and some areas may not even produce enough to pull. Late in the month weather improved and beekeepers are hoping for a reprieve to get some honey out of the hives. It appears that the Tupelo honey will be very light and some areas did not get any. Many beekeepers reported losses this year and the totals are still being checked. Most are treating the bee hives year round to prevent further losses and keep the bees in optimal shape for the remainder of the season. Supplemental feeding is still necessary in some areas. Bees are currently collecting from wildflowers, wild Cherry, Dogwood, Quince bushes and azaleas with berries coming in soon.

IDAHO, COLORADO, UTAH: Temperatures were below normal over parts of Eastern Utah and far Western areas of Colorado during the month of April, according to the National Weather Service. There were above normal temperatures across the entire State of Idaho and the balance of Utah and Colorado during the same period. During April precipitation was below normal in all reporting areas of Idaho and Utah. Colorado also recorded below normal precipitation in most areas of their State with the exception of above normal precipitation reported in Denver, Lamar and several locations in the far Western part of the State.

During the month of April, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor, moisture conditions were normal in the North Central areas of Idaho, North Central and North Eastern Colorado. During the same period, there were severe drought conditions in following locations: Western and Southeast Areas

of Colorado, Central and Southwest Idaho, Northern areas of Utah. The drought has become worse during April in many locations of Utah, Idaho and Colorado. The most extreme drought areas are located west of the Great Salt Lake in Utah and a small area in Western Idaho along the border with Oregon.

According to Western US SNOTEL snow/precipitation percentage updated in late April, Colorado was at 65 percent of median on snow water equivalent and Utah was at 30 percent. Information from the same report indicated that Snow/Precipitation equivalent in Idaho ranged broadly across the State. In the northern areas the highest basin was Clearwater with 63 percent and the low was Little Wood basin with 23 percent. In southern areas of Idaho the highest basin was the Snake Basin above Palisades reporting 68 percent and the low was 9 percent in Owyhee. The percentages listed above are based upon the current snow water equivalent basin-wide percent compared to the 1981 to 2010 median.

Beekeepers now have many of their colonies in place for the upcoming honey production season. Besides their home States of Idaho, Utah and Colorado, beekeepers have or plan to site their colonies in a few other States including Montana, Wyoming, Texas, North Dakota and South Dakota for the upcoming season. In many cases, beekeepers are looking to spread their risks. Some of the main risks include being able to find suitable locations that will permit them to site their bees and locations where foraging plants are plentiful for the bees. With the drought conditions in many Western States, finding suitable foraging areas is of prime concern.

It appears that most beekeepers are not detecting very many varroa mites at this time based upon some sticky board tests that continue to show lower mite loads. Maintenance varroa mite treatments have been applied during April as a preparation, prior to the upcoming season. There has been scattered treatment also in the Mountain States for foulbrood this spring. Beekeepers were dividing and re-queening their hives in earnest during the month of April. As a follow-up to newly divided and re-queened colonies, beekeepers will be continually tasked with making sure that these new nucs are moving forward towards success. Overall, bees are looking healthy at this time. However, some beekeepers are still feeling the effects of some losses from misapplied fungicides and insecticides while in California. One beekeeper stated that he was hopeful that they would be able to make up the difference from those losses with the new divides. During late April there were some new foraging plants starting to show up including choke cherries, dandelions and fruit trees. These plants and trees were starting to provide some pollen and nectar, but the main foraging plants have not yet moved into the growing season enough to provide much in the way of useable plants for the bees. At upper elevations in the Mountain States, spring will not come until June. Beekeepers continue to provide supplement feeding besides honey stores, including corn syrup, sucrose, or a blend on an as needed basis. It seems that keeping bees in top form with supplemental feed as needed, is a key management practice to keep the colony healthy.

Wholesale demand for honey is very good and exceeds current supply levels in Idaho, Utah and Colorado. Beekeepers are hoping for stable prices for the upcoming 2015 honey crop production season. There are continued concerns among Mountain State beekeepers about mislabeled honey from other Countries when it is believed to be from China.

ILLINOIS: Temperatures for the month of April were mostly above normal to normal with adequate rainfall in most parts of the state, with a few days early within the month that ranged in the upper 70s. Temperatures were generally cooler than normal whereas beekeepers began to wonder if winter would ever end. Early purchasing of packaged bees took place the early part of the month as beekeepers accessed their hives as some reported a 50 to 60% or more loss of hives. Most beekeepers are busy accessing the survival rate of their hives and preparing them for spring, as they report vegetation for bees such as dandelion, honey locust, soft Maple, and wild cherry. A few beekeepers report a severe winter, and have accepted the fact that winter is gone and are hoping for a better year for their hives. Demand for honey is fairly good at the retail and moderate at wholesale level. Prices are generally unchanged.

IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI, NEBRASKA: Average state temperatures for the month were above normal. Precipitation was below normal, as dry conditions were observed. Below normal amounts of rainfall varied. Some tornadic activity occurred as spring temperatures increased.

Beekeepers were busy building up hives, with the introduction of queen and package bees. Queens are laying eggs, as drones are increasing. Supplemental feeding is still being done as populations are increasing. Beekeepers also have registered and located bees. Pollinating activities are underway as bees are working various spring ornamentals, wildflowers, berries and fruit orchards of peaches and apples.

INDIANA: Temperatures for the month of April were also above normal to normal for the state. Early within the month temperatures rose in the high 70s, but dropped again in the low 30s and 40s. A few Beekeepers report a 50% or more hive loss, while a few others report a 40% survival rate. Most Beekeepers have purchased package bees and report a lot of broods within their hives. Due to the weather the bees are able to take flight and bring back nectar to hives, such as Dandelion, soft Maple, etc. Demand for honey is fairly good at the retail level and moderate at the wholesale level. Prices are generally unchanged.

KENTUCKY: Although Kentucky had significant amounts of rainfall in April, the bees seemed to be further ahead than beekeepers' ability to keep up with them. Many hives across Kentucky had swarm cells in spite of cool temperatures, sustained rain periods and sporadic pollen sources from redbud, dogwood and canola. In Western Kentucky, they also collected from mustard, willow and dandelions. At the close of April, black locust is blooming throughout the Commonwealth with tulip poplar almost ready to bloom. There are some cases of sacbrood being reported in the central part of the state, and losses due to varroa mite damage across the state. Colonies across the state seem to be rebounding from a protracted winter just fine.

LOUISIANA: Pollen and nectar sources received during April were from various trees and wild flowers. Colonies were in generally good condition. Weather has seen above normal rainfall with around normal temperatures. Honey flow is down due to the rain. Supply is limited and demand remains high.

MICHIGAN: Beekeepers have been busy receiving packages of bees to replace winter losses and cleaning the brood nest to afford ample space in the hive. Pollen gathering began with willows and some maples, a few early spring wildflowers and dandelions that have started to bloom at month's end and have provided nectar and pollen for bees. The warmer days have given bees the opportunity for cleansing flights and nectar gathering, as well as building brood. In Central Michigan, maples were nearly finished, as bees moved on to box elder, ornamental fruit trees and initial onset of dandelion. Commercial hives have begun to be set in orchards for pollination of apricot and pear trees, with peach, cherry and apple in the next few weeks. Most farmer markets have not opened as yet and most beekeepers have little or no honey to sell at this time.

MINNESOTA: Temperatures were above normal across the entire State of Minnesota during the month of April. Precipitation was slightly above normal in the St. Paul area and below normal across most other areas of the State during the same period. The U.S. Drought Monitor continues to indicate a short term moderate drought over the entire State.

Many Minnesota beekeepers are still concerned about neonicotinoids utilized as a corn seed treatment and the effects it has on bee colonies in the State. Some commercial beekeepers have elected to wait until corn planting is over in Minnesota before bringing back all of their bees to the State from California or other Southern States, thereby reducing potential contamination of their bee colonies. With the weather warming in Minnesota during April, some dandelions and trees were starting to provide small amounts of pollen and nectar for bees. Even though the weather is starting to warm most beekeepers are still utilizing supplemental feeding to keep their bees healthy and strong until the main pollen and honey flows start. This critical in-between time frame is a make or break time in the bee business. The weather is warm enough for the bees to fly but the vegetation has not yet caught up. So without supplemental feeding the bees will have a deficient diet unless there are sufficient honey stores still available in the colony. Many beekeepers have been busy dividing and re-queening the new splits. Even though sticky board mite tests have not revealed very many mites, most beekeepers are utilizing this time prior to the main honey flow to treat for varroa mites as a maintenance issue.

Wholesale demand for honey is very good and will exceed the current supply levels until the new crop honey becomes available in the summer months. Beekeepers are hoping for a good crop of honey in 2015. There are continued concerns among Minnesota beekeepers about mislabeled honey from other Countries when it is believed to be from China.

MISSISSIPPI: The beekeepers have reported that most of the bees are in good shape and are still being fed extra at this time as needed. Management of the hives for beetles and mites are ongoing to prevent any extra losses for this season. The spring honey flow may be light this year.

MONTANA: No report issued.

NEW ENGLAND: New England weather for the month of April has featured a pattern of cooler, unstable temperatures with daytime temperatures in the high 40's with nighttime temperatures in the low 30's and 40's. This month's moisture levels for the entire region have been extremely higher than normal. The primary forging ornamental and floral sources for pollen and nectar are; skunk cabbage, sumac, dandelion, crocus, and *Salix* spp. i.e. willows such as *Salix caprea* (goat), *Salix discolor* (pussy), *Salix Alba* (white) and *Salix nigra* (black), along with *Acer rubrum* (red maple) and silver maple. Bees across New England were also gathering pollen and nectar from; glory of the snow- snow drop (*chionodoxa luciliae*), witch hazel, jasmine, Siberian squill (*scilla siberica*), American elm (*ulmus Americana*), quaking aspen, alder, spice bush, sassafras, leather leaf, pin cherry, plum, blueberry and crab apple. Additional local sources currently are ground ivy (*glechoma hederacea*), chickweed (*stellaria media*) and dandelions. Red Maple can create occasional big yields when in bloom. The Easter and Passover holidays usually coincided with the advent of regional pollen and nectar sources such as black and weeping willow, plums, blueberry and many varieties of apple blooms.

Bees are getting pollen and nectar when they can but it seems like it stays consistently cool. Bees need warmer temperatures to actively increase foraging. Cooler temperatures in higher elevations have created a problem with chill brood whereby the queen's activity has been restricted. Reportedly some keepers lost hives to a continuance of cooler weather, preventing bees from foraging and because there were no surplus honey stores. Additionally, nectar sources were just not available, and unchecked hives ran out of stores and starved to death. Hives will normally consume 1.2 lbs. of honey per day with full colonies ranging from 40,000-50,000 bees. Northwestern New England shows mixed reports on losses of around 40%, mainly due to starvation or queen loss.

In this region, bees reportedly came through winter weak in populations. Winter losses were high. In Northern New England, wintered over colonies reportedly are now fairly static in brood rearing and there are problems with clusters remaining small. Surviving weak colonies have been combined and hive bodies are being rotated with over wintered queens beginning to lay very slowly. Northern keepers will keep their entrance reducers in place until the end of May as cold snaps are quite common with changing New England weather. In Southern New England, colonies have just started to very slowly strengthen.

New England weather is two weeks behind normal with a lot of rain and high winds. Bees have not gathered a lot of pollen due to poor weather conditions. Maple has started to bloom and when bees could fly, they foraged on some. Wind gusts in the 40 to 50 mph range and even with temperatures in the 60 degree range, has made it such that most bees stayed hunkered down and clustered. The weather started to cooperate by mid-April and bees have just started to forage. Queens have started to lay with nucleus colonies building ever so slowly. Reportedly all keepers are active in checking food sources weekly, and will begin to reverse hive bodies every two weeks in order to keep the brood in the bottom and will add a super before the bees get crowded.. Feeding is always very heavy and important to monitor for this time of year. Beekeepers continue to administer pollen supports and supplemental feedings on a need basis and will make sure that syrup 1:1 is available on the hive until combs are drawn out.

In regard to established colonies, seasoned keepers try to make sure that they have ample room to expand and that honey supers are timely ready or already in place, since the queen will begin laying usually at a rate of 1500 eggs a day, hence making sure that there is enough food for the new brood. Seasoned beekeepers have noted that they could be facing a pervasive swarming problem this spring with reported swarming occurring in late March. Spurts of really warm weather will create for many keepers, fast fills of medium supers of honey in the spring, and we will soon have honeysuckle and black locust to push a good honey flow.

Most package bee dealers are bringing a lot of packages into New England. The heavy rains in Georgia and Louisiana has been an issue in the supply line of package bees. Most keepers have recently received package bees/nucs or are about to, so they are just setting up in anticipation and are hopeful for a strong summer production season. Purportedly, Prices range from \$100.00 to \$125.00 mostly \$120.00 for a 3 lb. package with queen. Reportedly, 3 to 5 frame nuclei colonies average \$150.00 to \$200.00 whereby nuclei colonies usually develop 5 to 6 weeks ahead of package startups with less supercedure problems due to population imbalances before new brood starts to hatch.

Many beekeepers selling honey are buying honey from other beekeepers located in better foraging areas, in order to have honey to cover honey sales. Many times, large honey sellers are obtaining most of their honey from large producers in other states and out of the New England region. This has not always been the case but is becoming more and more common among those beekeepers selling honey at farmers markets.

Demand at all retail/wholesale outlets remains good and honey sales remain firm. Prices quoted for retail 1 lb. bottled units were \$9.00 to \$12.00 mostly \$12.00, occasionally higher, and 1 Quart bottled units were \$18.00 to \$20.00 mostly \$20.00, occasionally higher, inclusive of all varieties; for food service operations, prices were firm with 5 gallon units at \$195.00 to \$240.00 mostly \$230.00 and occasionally lower for all raw and natural honey depending on variety and quality. In the Northeast overall, the wholesale natural and raw honey price has been around \$2.50 to \$2.80 per pound, mostly

\$2.80 per pound, occasionally higher, by the 55 gallon barrel. Propolis reportedly is \$14.00 to \$17.00 mostly \$16.00 for 2 ounces tincture and pollen is \$26.00 to \$30.00 mostly \$28.00 per quart.

NEW YORK: It has been a cool April, which delayed bee and plant development. The lack of nectar sources earlier in the month delayed colony growth due to fewer flight days with little forage material. Dandelions are the first good source and they are barely beginning at month's end, which has forced additional feedings. Winter loss surveys have still not been tabulated, although it appears that commercial and sideline beekeepers have maintained losses at a lower level than the previous year, although higher than the usual 30% that has been documented the past few years. Honey stores are low, and beekeepers are looking forward to a good black locust flow to refill supplies.

NORTH CAROLINA: Temperatures in North Carolina varied throughout April, but were mostly above normal. The state received mostly normal to above normal precipitation leaving statewide soil moisture levels rated at 1.5 percent short, 70 percent adequate, and 28.5 percent surplus the week ending April 25. According to the North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council there were no drought advisories active within the state.

Beekeepers worked on inspecting hives for possible disease and pests. While Varroa mite activity was noted there were no widespread issues. According to apiary inspectors, colonies looked fairly good, but have been slow to build up populations due to steady rain events and bouts of unseasonably cold temperatures which hindered foraging. However, it is anticipated that April showers will bring forth an enhanced nectar flow in May as Sumac became an available nectar source across the State; while in the Piedmont region Dandelion, Clover (Alsike, Crimson, and Ladino white clover), Blackberry, Tulip Poplar, Black Gum, Black Locust, Vetch, Holly, and Raspberry began to bloom around mid to late April; and Dandelion, Blackberry, Tulip Poplar, Black Gum, Holly, Raspberry, Huckleberry, and Tupelo Gum began blooming in the Coastal Plains region. Commercial pollinator hives were back in North Carolina for blueberry pollination and by the end of the month began preparing to move up the East Coast to New Jersey, and later Maine, for blueberry and cranberry pollination.

Demand for replacement bees continues to exceed supply. Honey demand remains high and supplies are at expected lulls for the time of year. Prices are about steady, but are expected to increase with rising production costs.

NORTH & SOUTH DAKOTA: At home growers had generally average temperatures with some extra much needed rain. The bees which were busy with various commodities from the Mississippi to California and north to the Pacific Northwest. Some problems with extra rain in the Mississippi, but generally the bees are looking good. There is some concern over summer forage as a number of acres of alfalfa have been turned over to corn and soybeans. Lower prices for those commodities may see a return to alfalfa, but it may take a few years.

OHIO: Much of the month had cooler than normal temperatures with periods of precipitation and cloudy skies. Beekeepers have been busy preparing hives for spring flights and pollen gathering. Maples have just about finished as forages sources, while fruit trees, red bud and ornamental fruit trees have initially begun bloom. Dandelions are beginning to open which are good pollen sources, as well as choke cherry and wild cherry, and a peek of honeysuckle. Honey prices have continued to inch up as winter stores were used up. For 2014, wholesale honey prices rose from 212.6 cents to 216.1 cents and retail shelf prices rose from 373.5 cents to 406.6 cents.

OKLAHOMA: Pollen and nectar sources during April were from just about everything currently was bloom. Pollination has increased since the bees are back from California. Weather has seen temperatures in the daytime 70-80s and at night 50-60s. Rainfall has been above normal. Supply is very low while demand remains high.

OREGON: No report issued.

SOUTH CAROLINA: No report issued.

TENNESSEE: No report issued.

TEXAS: Local beekeepers have been into the bees extensively, splitting and re-queening hives. The bees seem to be doing well, but some of the queens introduced were not accepted. Growth has stalled because egg laying stopped earlier. Introduction of more queens occurs in the hope that they will stabilize the hives and get them growing again. Hive populations are good, but declining slowly until brood production restarts.

Some of the nucleus hives made from the old queens are growing slowly. They had to switch the nucleus boxes several times to even out the number of foragers in them - a relatively small number of additional bees can make a big difference in a small colony, and moving foragers between colonies is faster than switching scarce frames of brood.

Nectar is coming in. Several additional honey supers were put out to give the bees room. The next four to six weeks should see the bulk of the nectar flow. Pollen also is plentiful, although the bees at present are not collecting as much, since they have broods to care for. More broods should be on the way, if the colonies accept their new queens and get back to business.

WASHINGTON: A mild spring with a few cold nights, but not a lot of need for frost protection in most areas. The bees were very busy as the pollination season started as much as 2 weeks early in many areas of the Pacific Northwest. The early bloom resulted in a smaller window for the bees and a compressed schedule. Early bloom in Washington brought early and extra demand for bees to pollinate the fruit and other crops as the period for pollination was compressed. A truck with nearly 450 hives of bees overturned in WA on Interstate 5 on April 17th. That equates to over 13 million bees. The spill occurred early in the morning and as the sun came up the bees became more active forcing firefighters to spray some with a layer of foam. The bees were on their way to Lynden from Sunnyside to work blueberries. Some bees were saved but many were lost.

WISCONSIN: Temperatures for the month of April according to some of the beekeepers were cooler than normal for the month of April with a few days of temperatures ranging in the upper 70s, but came to a halt due to rain and high winds which caused temperatures to fluctuate in the low 30s and 40s. Beekeeper report purchasing package bees at the beginning of the month and report a lot of young (brood) within their hives, while the older bees have taken flight due to warmer weather and are bringing back nectar to the hives from vegetation such as, Maple, Elm, and Box Elder. A few Beekeepers

reported a loss of hives during the winter months, but are doing well with the package bees and are very enthusiastic about spring as well as summer. Demand for honey is fairly good at the retail level and moderate wholesale level. Prices are generally unchanged

U.S Exports of Honey By Country, Quantity, and Value

	Year to Date		March 2015	
	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars
COMB & NATURAL HONEY PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - -				
Afghanistan	566	4,139	0	0
Bahamas, The	824	7,419	0	0
Bangladesh	1,000	4,435	1,000	4,435
Barbados	7,579	23,668	897	5,341
Brazil	4,407	10,696	0	0
Cayman Islands	548	3,180	548	3,180
China	80,878	200,494	572	5,564
India	260,400	910,470	223,200	783,060
Japan	177,437	654,522	51,684	125,453
Korea, South	110,647	590,285	18,441	98,381
Kuwait	65,001	157,778	0	0
Netherlands Antilles(*)	3,591	21,363	898	5,341
Panama	7,094	26,705	0	0
Philippines	51,946	126,089	51,946	126,089
Singapore	9,238	28,369	7,673	18,624
United Arab Emirates	45,347	118,808	43,597	112,734
Yemen(*)	9,936	28,288	0	0

NATURAL HONEY, NOT ELSEWHERE INDICATED OR SPECIFIED - - -

Bahamas, The	15,139	62,176	9,591	37,090
Barbados	2,479	16,093	2,084	13,404
Bermuda	7,374	24,541	2,196	9,296
Canada	248,110	1,305,194	102,268	521,904
Cayman Islands	649	2,555	649	2,555
Chile	529	8,328	0	0
China	1,988	13,183	400	5,000
Dominican Republic	3,331	11,200	0	0
Germany(*)	3,543	10,000	3,543	10,000
Guatemala	229	2,586	0	0
Hong Kong	2,401	15,203	918	11,603
India	109,440	306,564	0	0
Japan	4,460	10,825	4,460	10,825
Korea, South	18,911	132,096	18,911	132,096
Netherlands Antilles(*)	3,776	18,391	2,075	6,415
Pakistan	10,761	74,923	10,761	74,923
Panama	408	3,056	408	3,056
Philippines	486	3,511	0	0
Saudi Arabia	16,572	40,224	12,996	31,544
Singapore	7,510	49,392	4,245	26,784
United Arab Emirates	2,299	15,466	1,845	12,871
United Kingdom	147	2,590	0	0
Vietnam	49,602	149,175	49,602	149,175
GRAND TOTAL	1,346,583	5,193,980	627,408	2,346,743

U.S Imports of Honey By Country, Quantity, and Value

Year to Date			March 2015		
Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	CIF Value Dollars	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	CIF Value Dollars

WHITE HONEY – NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - -

Argentina	1,013,171	4,014,253	4,092,432	554,550	2,178,547	2,214,603
Brazil	351,576	1,514,618	1,550,554	37,570	154,975	158,806
Canada	3,428,869	14,880,109	14,952,710	1,278,084	5,516,438	5,545,569
Dominican Republic	4,632	12,800	13,669	0	0	0
India	17,700	55,224	56,224	0	0	0
Italy(*)	3,226	21,753	25,903	0	0	0
Mexico	173,112	724,493	730,053	44,582	185,025	187,878
New Zealand(*)	6,073	12,145	12,833	0	0	0
Serbia	1,416	9,183	9,755	0	0	0
Taiwan	73,801	162,931	178,370	17,440	44,505	48,580
Thailand	315,450	824,649	865,149	93,000	255,750	268,250
Ukraine	18,154	68,037	68,537	0	0	0
United Kingdom	988	6,315	7,230	0	0	0
Uruguay	37,805	148,373	149,358	37,805	148,373	149,358

EXTRA LIGHT AMBER HONEY – NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - -

Argentina	4,173,120	16,954,209	17,548,613	2,361,805	9,503,230	9,844,005
Australia(*)	19,500	88,725	89,288	19,500	88,725	89,288
Brazil	258,688	1,022,200	1,058,485	70,392	285,655	293,209
Canada	111,473	564,514	567,234	45,431	229,749	231,588
Denmark(*)	1,682	12,294	12,933	0	0	0
France(*)	244	2,494	2,544	0	0	0
India	2,220,284	6,863,319	7,164,005	1,090,944	3,526,625	3,651,771
Italy(*)	10,958	27,549	29,152	10,876	23,679	25,179
Mexico	406,883	1,659,115	1,668,616	66,039	263,095	264,348
New Zealand(*)	10,038	17,703	19,872	0	0	0
Portugal	219	2,408	2,608	219	2,408	2,608
Taiwan	266,800	651,289	683,989	132,820	308,874	324,074
Thailand	512,499	1,414,839	1,444,177	164,799	457,932	466,178
Ukraine	3,119,370	9,932,450	10,331,633	1,669,041	5,287,703	5,505,782
Uruguay	75,733	291,574	293,499	75,733	291,574	293,499

LIGHT AMBER HONEY – NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE –

Argentina	474,484	1,989,031	2,071,070	0	0	0
Australia(*)	653	8,379	8,622	0	0	0
Austria	31,731	255,146	269,284	16,192	151,795	160,044
Brazil	569,923	2,168,025	2,221,858	189,415	748,188	765,961
Bulgaria	8,858	32,826	35,326	0	0	0
Burma	647,400	1,575,920	1,674,304	169,200	390,042	420,842
Cote d'Ivoire	38,400	110,016	110,017	0	0	0
Denmark(*)	3,688	26,208	27,569	0	0	0
Dominican Republic	167,367	509,571	535,974	67,394	217,063	227,292
Germany(*)	70,953	352,578	369,602	36,789	173,151	180,725

Greece	3,543	18,758	20,005	1,469	12,917	13,587
India	1,624,920	4,896,531	5,109,183	648,840	1,946,921	2,029,473
Israel(*)	1,363	8,225	8,493	0	0	0
Italy(*)	2,342	43,270	44,654	406	10,135	10,259
Mexico	107,122	380,963	384,740	82,316	292,839	294,007
Pakistan	3,420	12,882	14,170	0	0	0
Spain	5,916	51,455	52,540	1,920	17,997	18,294
Taiwan	382,620	890,391	929,191	95,520	222,598	227,698
Thailand	1,552,440	3,964,497	4,160,664	646,100	1,673,745	1,757,002
Turkey	1,285,260	3,320,100	3,660,102	465,000	1,246,200	1,371,200
Ukraine	191,520	618,269	653,659	76,560	248,820	263,220
Uruguay	91,586	318,719	321,154	55,006	191,421	192,892
Vietnam	5,957,080	16,570,720	17,454,790	1,461,640	4,082,877	4,337,039

NOT OTHERWISE SPECIFIED OR INDICATED ---

Canada	21,261	61,751	66,866	19,270	42,463	47,463
Dominican Republic	105,022	252,408	262,326	40,836	69,256	72,996
Egypt	2,046	9,200	9,897	1,470	6,800	7,384
France(*)	970	11,131	11,548	970	11,131	11,548
Greece	6,780	47,352	50,922	4,851	33,088	35,076
India	12,690	48,579	51,379	0	0	0
Indonesia	121,800	328,860	343,860	0	0	0
Italy(*)	2,925	48,492	50,214	839	15,957	16,811
Mexico	36,001	99,809	101,637	22,287	54,766	55,487
Moldova	3,535	6,315	7,354	0	0	0
New Zealand(*)	248,829	2,169,911	2,229,036	41,181	494,971	530,705
Poland	7,338	43,606	47,827	4,215	21,471	24,106
Russia	18,730	80,449	84,375	0	0	0
Spain	233	2,565	2,605	0	0	0
Taiwan	120,379	317,215	336,555	76,923	203,676	217,882
Turkey	1,419	7,996	11,749	959	4,396	4,649
Ukraine	23,130	61,783	68,842	20,155	50,593	55,652
Uruguay	17,144	38,574	41,074	17,144	38,574	41,074
Vietnam	922,754	2,469,045	2,581,224	186,245	513,181	532,629

COMB AND RETAIL HONEY –

Austria	2,050	25,825	27,788	1,672	21,694	23,223
Brazil	6,624	43,485	45,568	3,931	23,388	25,371
Bulgaria	35,484	132,321	139,351	13,647	46,955	49,661
Canada	15,917	133,203	133,529	312	2,660	2,735
Dominican Republic	2,088	8,784	8,996	2,088	8,784	8,996
Egypt	3,999	9,734	10,054	0	0	0
France(*)	117,380	479,421	499,989	50,393	200,948	207,979
Germany(*)	19,136	107,797	114,048	6,596	32,764	36,515
Greece	10,094	102,091	106,743	8,419	81,985	85,432
Guatemala	5,928	9,250	9,705	4,928	5,550	5,551
Hungary	6,680	49,275	52,076	0	0	0
India	220,180	689,683	717,183	100,120	318,187	330,687
Italy(*)	2,546	39,781	40,796	1,963	32,530	33,426
Lithuania	4,964	21,834	24,018	1,892	8,188	9,007
Mexico	14,883	64,051	67,875	12,708	51,523	55,147
New Zealand(*)	212,183	1,568,198	1,589,453	45,939	439,070	447,374
Poland	12,178	36,384	38,557	5,305	5,080	5,669

Portugal	4,884	32,609	34,451	3,654	25,401	27,003
Russia	6,689	29,522	32,466	1,102	2,390	2,629
Saudi Arabia	790	6,517	6,606	0	0	0
Serbia	3,942	29,490	30,756	0	0	0
Spain	22,936	180,001	187,113	306	2,181	2,304
Switzerland(*)	978	16,054	16,734	978	16,054	16,734
Taiwan	5,154	34,737	35,871	650	2,858	2,946
Turkey	23,269	163,691	168,334	11,356	84,480	86,905
Ukraine	22,004	67,367	71,775	2,574	9,077	9,985

FLAVORED HONEY –

Belgium-Luxembourg(*)	1,040	3,186	3,389	0	0	0
Canada	6,724	89,270	89,303	6,584	85,750	85,779
China	11,209	59,523	61,076	0	0	0
El Salvador	2,309	9,070	10,619	2,309	9,070	10,619
Finland	73	14,130	14,298	73	14,130	14,298
India	36,055	79,768	83,277	15,200	31,918	33,627
Ireland	203	2,325	2,569	0	0	0
Italy(*)	730	18,285	18,835	310	6,170	6,333
Japan	180	22,877	22,977	0	0	0
Korea, South	60,478	1,234,596	1,270,990	16,926	474,510	493,136
Lebanon	240	3,600	3,744	0	0	0
Mexico	34,821	288,943	292,555	23,010	197,906	200,220
New Zealand(*)	31	4,587	4,685	0	0	0
Russia	2,600	4,542	4,996	0	0	0
Spain	739	5,238	6,252	739	5,238	6,252
Taiwan	2,208	5,372	5,673	858	2,759	2,884
Thailand	10,730	47,785	50,190	10,730	47,785	50,190

ORGANIC HONEY –

Argentina	10,745	76,342	78,241	0	0	0
Brazil	2,772,840	11,185,052	11,595,656	1,323,063	5,257,497	5,441,738
Canada	13,399	107,498	109,273	2,287	17,640	17,681
Greece	384	5,284	5,406	0	0	0
Italy(*)	3,547	48,779	50,104	520	6,846	7,227
Mexico	21,492	90,046	93,943	19,569	81,617	85,420
New Zealand(*)	13,147	166,749	171,259	4,260	35,677	36,687

GRAND TOTAL	35,317,923	123,841,038	128,384,831	13,928,713	49,636,154	51,454,940
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Notes:

1. Data Source: Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Statistics
2. All zeroes for a data item may show that statistics exist in the other import type. Consumption or General.
3. (*) denotes a country that is a summarization of its component countries.
4. Users should use cautious interpretation on QUANTITY reports using mixed units of measure.
QUANTITY line items will only include statistics on the units of measure that are equal to, or are able to be converted to, the assigned unit of measure of the grouped commodities.
5. The CIF Value is not included within the 13th month data loads. This means that the CIF Value will be zero (0) for any records that are inserted during this process.
6. Product Group : Harmonized